

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 through 26. The status of original claims 1 through 26 is properly indicated below. Please add new claims 27 through 55 as set forth below:

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) An apparatus for driving a bobbin on a textile machine, said apparatus comprising:

a friction roller for driving a bobbin through friction on the outer circumference of said bobbin;

at least one support securably disposed around said friction roller, said support including at least two curved sections with each curved section extending around said friction roller by more than 180°; and

a friction coating disposed on an outer surface of said support, said friction coating contactable with said outer circumference of said bobbin to create the friction to drive said bobbin.

28. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said support comprises a metal.

29. (New) An apparatus as in claim 28, wherein said metal is at least one of steel, aluminum alloy, or brass.

30. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said friction coating comprises a metal ceramic.

31. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said friction coating contains hard-material granules.

32. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said friction coating is applied to support by at least one of flame spraying or plasma coating.

33. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said friction coating is applied to support by precipitation from a chemical coating bath.

34. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said curved sections of said support are alignable with each other to produce a ring-shaped support.

35. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said support is attachable to said friction roller.

36. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said curved sections of said support are connectable to each other.

37. (New) An apparatus as in claim 36, wherein said curved sections of said support are interlockingly connectable to each other.

38. (New) An apparatus as in claim 37, wherein said curved sections of said support are connectable to each other by a clip connection.

39. (New) An apparatus as in claim 37, wherein said curved sections of said support are connectable to each other by pins.

40. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said friction roller comprises multiple segments aligned in an axial direction and rotatable relative to each other.

41. (New) An apparatus as in claim 40, wherein said friction roller comprises three segments.

42. (New) An apparatus as in claim 40, wherein at least one segment of said multiple segments drives said bobbin.

43. (New) An apparatus as in claim 42, wherein said support is installed on said segment of said friction roller that drives said bobbin.

44. (New) An apparatus as in claim 40, wherein a first segment of said friction roller drives said bobbin.

45. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said support is removable from said friction roller.

46. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said support includes at least one of projections or recesses for engaging fastening devices.

47. (New) An apparatus as in claim 46, wherein said support defines a bore for receipt of a screw.

48. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said friction coating forms an outer diameter that is greater than the outside diameter of said friction roller.

49. (New) An apparatus as in claim 48, wherein said friction coating forms a crowned contour.

50. (New) An apparatus as in claim 27, wherein said support is connectable to said friction roller by at least one of an interlocking connection or a friction connection.

51. An apparatus for use on an outer circumference of a friction roller to drive a bobbin on a textile machine, said apparatus comprising a support having a friction coating disposed on an outer surface, said support including at least two curved sections with each curved section extending around said friction roller by more than 180°.

52. An apparatus as in claim 51, wherein said support is ring-shaped.

53. An apparatus as in claim 52, wherein said curved sections are alignable with each other so as to produce an interrupted ring.
54. An apparatus as in claim 51, wherein said curved sections include at least one of a protuberance or a recess.
55. An apparatus as in claim 51, wherein said curved sections include a bore for engagement of a fastening device.